



Concrete Preservation Institute

Military & Civilian Career Skills Training and Preservation: Alcatraz Island & Pearl Harbor



The Concrete Preservation Institute (CPI), a non-profit educational foundation, trains military service members and civilians for management careers and skilled trades jobs while repairing and preserving nationally significant monument and landmark structures. CPI's Field School locations are Pearl Harbor and Alcatraz Island. CPI is a partner of the US National Park Service (NPS) and a Career Skills Program (CSP) for the US military. The Institute is supported by industry sponsorships, charitable donations, and partnerships to fund the training program and to preserve structures that would not otherwise be preserved due to lack of NPS capitol improvement funding. CPI also engages in ongoing special projects and training - these have included evaluation work on the concrete bunkers at Pointe du Hoc, Normandy, France, with teams of college students, and recent preservation work on the WWII structures on Peleliu, where the team also provided training for local citizens enabling them to help maintain the structures over time. The CPI staff and Directors are internationally recognized and hands-on experts in concrete, preservation, and teaching. They bring needed expertise, resources, and people to ensure national cultural treasures remain strong for future generations and provide career opportunities to our honored military service men and women.

Field School Objectives

Participants have the opportunity to utilize and enhance their leadership, teamwork, and goal-oriented achievement skills while they learn hands-on skills in concrete, construction, and historic preservation and gain industry certifications including OSHA Safety Certification. While this experience prepares them for management careers or skilled trades jobs in construction related industries, it is equally valuable for positions in any field. During the 12-week, full-time onsite program, each team completes all aspects of a significant project including evaluation, design, specification, project management and logistics, form building, reinforcing repair and placement, and concrete mixture, placement, and finishing. CPI has tremendous placement and retention rates through their efforts to connect alumni with employers across the United States seeking strong candidates for full-time jobs or internships or with related university programs.

Field School Sites

Pearl Harbor

The CPI Pearl Harbor Field School was established in 2016, the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, as the first overseas Career Skills Program (CSP) to be approved by the US military. CSP's are a Department of Defense initiative to help transitioning service members prepare for civilian jobs.

Participants

Military service members from any military branch may apply and participate during their last 180 days of service; they remain on active duty for the duration of the program.

Brief History of the Battleship Row mooring quays

Standing solemnly in Pearl Harbor alongside the USS *Arizona* memorial, the Battleship Row mooring quays serve as quiet reminders of American strength and tenacity in the face of devastating loss following the surprise attack by Japanese Naval air forces on December 7, 1941. Despite the devastation, the nation quickly responded with the mooring quays playing a significant role in post-attack salvage. From the quays, American salvage workers accomplished unprecedented feats in the recovery of sunken battleships. Workers raised the USS *California*, USS *West Virginia*, and righted and refloated the USS *Oklahoma*. Extensive salvage work was performed on the USS *Arizona*. The quays were the foundations of the recovery, which lead ships like the *West Virginia* fighting throughout the remainder of the war. The mooring quays are part of the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark District, on the National Register of Historic Places, and part of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which represents the highest protections our nation bestows on cultural heritage. Time and exposure to the aggressive, chloride-rich environment have left the quays in need of full preservation treatment to halt further deterioration that could lead to structural compromise if not addressed.

Alcatraz Island

The Alcatraz Island CPI Field School was established in 2010.

Field School Participants

Participants at the Alcatraz Island CPI Field School are post-9/11 military veterans, dependents, reservists, and National Guard members. The program also accepts, on a limited basis, other young adults and students over the age of 18 seeking the experience and opportunity to work hand-in-hand with military service members.

Brief History of Alcatraz Island

Alcatraz Island's many structures, built by the US military beginning in the mid 1800's, help tell the story of the Island's history. The extensive military history on Alcatraz, which includes Civil War and California gold rush linkages, is often overshadowed by visitors' "dark tourism" curiosity focused on the approximately 30 years the Island served as a Federal penitentiary. Most of the 22-acre island's structures are currently in a state of severe deterioration, including the Prison Building that was the largest reinforced concrete structure in the world when it was built from 1906-09. Alcatraz Island was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1986 and is visited by 1.5 million people each year. Trip Advisor ranked Alcatraz 2015's most visited landmark site in the United States and the 8th most visited landmark in the world.

Future Field School Sites

Based on CPI's training, job placement, and preservation success, additional Field School locations are planned at military bases/historic landmark sites across the country in the near future.

Workforce Development

Concrete, construction, and many related and unrelated fields seek qualified employees. CPI accepts and trains military personnel and other young adults in their Field School programs with the goal of placing qualified individuals in these positions.

In addition to training within the Field School, CPI reaches out to advise additional service members through the military's Transition Assistance Program (TAPS). All US military service members are required to begin TAPS one year ahead of transition from active service. CPI engages with TAPS to work with these transitioning service members to advise them about concrete, construction, and related careers, related university programs, and connect them directly to employers.

Thousands of US military personnel transition to civilian careers each year. Hawaii military bases alone transition nearly 5000 people each year; nearly all seek employment utilizing their leadership, teamwork, and other skills in various locations across the US mainland

Partners, Sponsors, & Employers

The Concrete Preservation Institute invites companies to participate in CPI's a network of employers standing ready to interview CPI's military and civilian alumni and TAPS advisees for internship and full-time positions across the United States. CPI also seeks companies and individuals to help support their preservation and workforce development efforts with ongoing sponsorships, targeted funding, and in-kind contributions.

CPI has spent many years developing their unique program and earning the honor and trust of partnerships with the US National Park Service and the US military. CPI's ability to impact workforce and management shortages in industry will be increased with additional resources to train Field School participants and connect with hundreds of candidates in TAPS in all military service branches. Our country's honored military service members seek and deserve meaningful civilian employment once their service is complete; please help CPI connect their career dreams with you and your company's workforce and management needs.